Shirogane no Ou
Fenrir Craft

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#05 Twist
Isn't *that* Rayva Stain's "Bringer"?
DOES SHE KNOW—
That's... one nice sword.
THIS SWORD'S HISTORY?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK SO SHOCKED.
HAS NO ONE NOTICED BEFORE?
!
IT MUST BE BECAUSE RAYVA IS A CRAFTSMAN FROM ZEPHIL.
Squeeze
HE ISN'T WELL KNOWN IN QUATRE AND THE SOUTHERN NATIONS.
HIS CHARACTER-ISTIC STYLE IS FAMOUS AMONG CRAFTS—
MEN..
dump
dump
dump
dump
RIGHT EYE?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I'VE TIDIED UP, YOU CAN COME IN.
I also...

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE DONE?
THE CHIP CAN BE REPAIRED, OR IF YOU'D LIKE I CAN REWORK IT ——
..NO ..
IF AT ALL POSSIBLE... I'D PREFER ANOTHER SWORD.
FOUND IT.
TAKE A LOOK!
CH
OH.
SO YOU DON'T WANT TO USE THAT SWORD ANYMORE, HUH.
NK
rummage
.....
UM~~~ I KNOW IT'S AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE ..

SH
"RACEHOUND."
I THINK IT SUITS YOU.
NK
"RACE-HOUND," THE SPIRIT HUNTER?
IS SHE TELLING ME...
CH
TO HUNT THE GHOSTS OF MY PAST...?
IT'S A NICE SWORD, ISN'T IT?
NK

THAT'S IT, I GET IT NOW.
HUH?
GET WHAT?
tap
YOU'RE AFRAID OF FINDING OUT RIGHT EYE'S PAST
tap
WHAT WOULD YOU DO
IF IT MEANS HE HAS TO LEAVE YOUR SIDE?
..DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
tap

RUMBLE
OH!
crack crack crack
NEVER MIND, FORGET IT...
AND THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T TELL YOU THE TRUTH——
THEN IT'S THE OTHER THING? HE DOESN'T TRUST YOU?
slice
twitch
IN ANY CASE, AS THINGS STAND NOW HE LOOKS SUSPECT—
IT'LL GET BAD ENOUGH THAT YOU HAVE TO STICK UP FOR HIM.
THAT'LL LOOK LIKE FAVORITISM.
DEJA VU.
ZOE STOOD UP FOR YOU TOO, AFTER ALL.
fwap
THE CRITICISM KEPT GETTING WORSE. IT'S THE SAME SITUATION.

Slide
...DUNNO WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
—HERE.
EVERY-ONE SAYS THAT. I REALLY RECOM-MEND THEM, TOO.
JUST TAKE IT!
Here!
...UM...
Hup!
OR I'VE GOT THESE TOO?
SLEDGE No.1
DEATH BLOW
I'LL PASS ON THAT.
Sledge No.1
Hoop

A GUN?
OH NO, I'VE DONE IT AGAIN.
Clatter clatter
Messy
SHE TAKES CARE OF ME TOO.
DID YOU ALSO MAKE THE KING'S GUN?
YUP!
SO YOU KNOW THAT MOST GUNS IN THIS WORLD BEAR MY MARK?
IT'S NOT LIKE JUST ANYONE HAS ONE
Though there is the occasional failed craftsman
THAT'S WHY IT'S RARE TO FIND GUNNERS, YOU KNOW?

THE KING IS ACTUALLY THE FIRST I'VE EVER SEEN.
...YES.
HE PICKED UP A GUN
FELT WEAK BEING PROTECTED, SO HE WANTED TO BECOME STRONGER.
...THAT BOY
SO THAT NEXT TIME
HE'D BE ABLE TO PROTECT THE ONES HE CARES ABOUT.
BUT THAT DAY——
Squeeze...
...HOW STUPID OF HIM.

THE KING SHOULD PROTECT THE COUNTRY—
TO PROTECT ME.
NO ONE ASKED HIM
DROP
DROP
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE PROTECTED ME.

ZOEEE !!
—GEEZ
THud
HOW STUPID, YOUR MAJESTY
—GHG
flinch
WHAT IF I'D KILLED YOU BY MISTAKE?
. STOP IT.
GET AWAY FROM HIM.
OH WELL. NOW THEN—
flap

HOW ABOUT YOU COME WITH ME?
...WAIT,
haa
ZOE!
ZO——
gasp
...E...
huff
-FIOR
IT SHOULDN'T BE ME——
What is this?
What happened to
Are you OK!?

.....
WHAT... DID YOU SAY?
THE 40TH KING IS DEAD.
THAT'S THE ANNOUNCE-MENT WE MADE.
...BUT...!
BUT DON'T YOU KNOW HE'S ALIVE!?
YES.
THEN WHY!?
THE POISON'S KEPT YOU ON DEATH'S DOOR FOR TWO WEEKS——

I MOBILIZED OUR INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT ARGOS, AND THEY DID AN EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH FOR HIM,
BUT THEY HAVEN'T FOUND HIM.
THEN...!
YOU WANT US TO ANNOUNCE THAT HE WAS ABDUCTED?
WELL...
THE "KING" HAS ALWAYS HAD THAT SAME RESOLVE.
MY PRIORITY IS THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY, NOT THE KING
THE ABSENCE OF THE KING IS AN INVITATION FOR INVASION.
OR IS YOUR HEAD STILL SO FULL OF SLEEP THAT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT MUCH?
...SO WE ABANDON HIM?
Clench..

I WON'T HESITATE IN THE WORST CASE SCENARIO.
BACK THEN...
I...
Clench
——CALM DOWN A LITTLE IT WASN'T EASY STITCHING YOUR STOMACH TOGETHER, AND YOU'LL TEAR IT OPEN.
Haa
And I asked you not to rile him up
YOU——
SHOULD ALSO HARDEN YOUR RESOLVE.
I SAID THAT WAS THE WORST CASE SCENARIO, RIGHT?
WE ANNOUNCED HE'S DEAD SO WE CAN INSTALL A FAKE KING.
...FAKE KING...?
OF COURSE, HE WILL *FORMALLY* BE KING
THE MAIN REASON IS THAT WE CAN'T LEAVE THE THRONE EMPTY

ONCE A KING IS INSTALLED, I'M SURE THE MASTERMIND WILL MAKE A MOVE.
THERE'S NO WAY HE'D STAY QUIET AS THE THRONE IS SNATCHED FROM HIM.
SINCE HE ABDUCTED ZOE WITHOUT KILLING HIM
I'M SURE HE TOOK HIM HOSTAGE TO DEMAND THE THRONE.
IF HE'S USING THE KING AS BLACKMAIL, I THINK THAT'S WHAT HE'D ASK FOR.
...AND SO?
HUH?
THEY WON'T SUCCEED IN USURPING THE THRONE—
EVEN IF THEY ASSASSINATE THE KING, THEY NEED PROOF OF LEGITIMACY TO TAKE THE THRONE.
THERE'S NO PRECEDENT FOR TRAITORS STEALING THE CROWN.
OF COURSE NOT.

THEN——
HOW ABOUT USURPING THE THRONE WHILE THE KING IS ALIVE?
...WHAT?
IF THE KING WERE PUBLICLY DEAD.
HOLD IT!
THEN HE'D BECOME——
KING, YEAH.
AND IT'D BE EVEN MORE CONVENIENT——
IF HE USES THE KING AS BLACKMAIL, HE CAN GET THE PROOF HE NEEDS.
SO WHAT'S HIS REAL TARGET?
...ME? THE PROOF?

D. clap
...JUST LIKE THAT.
——SO DON'T INSTALL THE NEXT KING.
rustle
IF HE THINKS HE'S FAILED,
I'M AFRAID HE MIGHT KILL ZOE.
I'LL MAKE THEM AGREE
HOW? AND WHO WILL BE PROXY?
THE MINISTERS WON'T AGREE TO THAT. AND THE PEOPLE——
BUT WITHOUT A KING——
WE SHOULD ANNOUNCE THAT HE'S A FAKE KING —— A PROXY KING.
WEREN'T YOU LISTENING? I'LL MAKE THEM AGREE.

I'll stand in as the fake king and rescue Zoe.
And until he returns, I'll protect this country.
No matter what happens, no matter by what means, I'll find him.
I swear it.

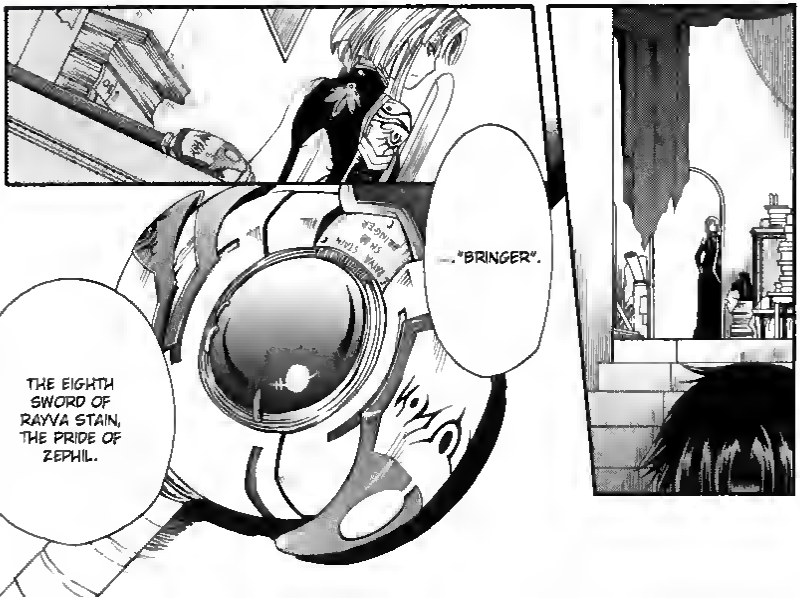
I FOUND OUT AFTER THE FACT, TOO~~
IT SUCKS BEING LEFT OUT, YOU KNOW?
SO TO PAY HIM BACK I HAD A LITTLE FUN WITH HIM DURING THE CROWN CEREMONY ♡
!
He looked so panicked, it was so fun ♪ ♡
Tee hee ♡
AND THEN
HE CAME OUT AS A FAKE KING, TOO.
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO KEEP IT HIDDEN——
BUT HE COULDN'T TAKE THE OATH NO MATTER WHAT
TO HIM, THE KING IS ZOE AND ZOE ALONE.
squeeze
!

click
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD HIM ABOUT ZOE.
WHY DIDN'T YOU?
flap flap flap
YOU CAN'T SAY THE THINGS YOU OUGHT TO SAY, AND YOU CAN'T ASK THE IMPORTANT THINGS.
WHAT ARE YOU, SOME LITTLE KID IN LOVE?
YOU'RE SCARED, AREN'T YOU?
OF HIM KNOWING.
Oh!
flap
flap flap
HE'S YOUR RIGHT EYE.
BUT IF YOU WON'T TALK TO HIM WHEN IT'S IMPORTANT, THEN HE WON'T UNDERSTAND.
IF HE'S GOT YOUR BACK ——

THAT MEANS YOU'VE GOT HIS BACK TOO.
RIGHT NOW IT'S ALL YOU RELYING ON HIM.
LIKE A GIANT ROYAL BRAT ——
RIGHT !?
SORRY. MY HAND SLIPPED.
DAMN YOU...
I GUESS THERE ARE THINGS HE CAN'T SAY UNLESS WE ASK HIM
IF YOU'RE HIS "BODY", THEN ASK HIM ALREADY.
...MAYBE, IF I FEEL LIKE IT.

Rayvn's swords are super-rare~~ I want to study it~~
I can't stop thinking about it!
Um
Oh!
WOULD YOU MIND IF I KEEP IT HERE?
...HUH?
!!
SECRET.. BASE?
IT'S THE PERFECT PLACE TO KEEP THINGS SAFE.
AND THIS IS MY SECRET BASE!
NOT EVEN THE KING. SO ——
THE LAST TIME I RESTRUCTURED, I MOVED IT. NO ONE KNOWS WHERE IT IS.
That's why it's a mess

Ehe he ♡
...I'll have to decline. I'm afraid
I'll comfort you. ♡
Whenever you're troubled, feel free to come on over.
Don't be silly!
My services are also extremely rare!
Well!
... Instead ...
I'll leave the sword... in your care.


..."Bringer".
The eighth sword of Rayva Stain, the pride of Zephil.

THAT ARTISAN CHOOSES HIS CLIENT AND FORGES THE SWORD TO BE LIKE A THIRD ARM FOR THEM.
AS A RESULT, NO TWO ARE ALIKE——
WHEN THE OWNER DIES, IT'S SAID THE BLADES ARE INTERRED WITH THEM.

For who—
Were you forged?

clack
!
——THE KING...

IS FIGHTING TO SAVE KING ZOE.
SINCE JUST AS THE KING HELPED ME,
SO KING ZOE HELPED HIS MAJESTY.
No matter what happens, no matter what it takes, he'll find him for sure.
—— AND ONCE HE FINDS HIM?
—— ONCE HE FINDS HIM,
.....
Oh!

IF
THAT HAPPENS—
AND HIS MAJESTY WILL STAY BY HIS SIDE AND PROTECT HIM, RIGHT?
THE TRUE KING WILL RETURN TO THE THRONE,
WHAT ABOUT ME?
STOMP
Don't let them escape!
This way!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

DID — SOME-THING HAPPEN?
turn
SIR RIGHT EYE?
SIR GLEN!
haa
SOMEONE SUSPICIOUS RAN THIS WAY
WHICH WAY DID HE GO?
NO...
I... DIDN'T SEE ANYONE.
...IS THAT SO?
I'LL COME WITH. WHAT IS THE SITUATION?
NO, THAT'S UNNECES-SARY.
clack
IF —

IF HE GETS KILLED LIKE LAST TIME,
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET INFORMATION FROM HIM.
— WELL THEN,
PLEASE EXCUSE ME.